

# **Social Thought & Research**

Vol. 35, 2019

*The Promise and Pitfalls  
of Public Sociology*

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### **Cover Art:**

This photograph represents diverse citizens, and careers, in the public sector, and was taken at Emporia State University in East Central Kansas. The relationship between universities and publics foregrounds pressing challenges for sociologists, as well as our disciplinary neighbors: how can our work make a greater public impact, and how might scholars better improve communication with publics, so as to collaboratively achieve constructive social change? Additionally, what challenges do scholars, teachers, and researchers face when attempting to be more “public-facing” in their work? Such questions connect the “abstract” questions of philosophy, theory, and method to the everyday lives and struggles of persons with variegated perspectives, as well as their efforts to grapple with public issues. Drawing upon voices from environmental sociology, sociology of immigration, critical theory, women’s and gender studies, and social psychology, this volume of *STAR* features interviews, research, and essays addressing the promise and pitfalls of public sociology.

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**TABLE OF CONTENTS**  
**VOL. 35, 2019**

**On the Cover**  
Thomas Felts

**Acknowledgments**

**Editor’s Introduction: “The Promise and Pitfalls of Public Sociology”**

Lukas Szrot ..... 9

**INVITED 2017 BLACKMAR LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

**Interview with Angie Carter**

Prepared by Walter Goettlich ..... 17

**INVITED 2018 BLACKMAR LECTURER AT THE UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS**

**Interview with Rene D. Flores**

Prepared by Erin Adamson and Elyse Neumann ..... 37

**FEATURED ARTICLES ON THE PROMISE AND PITFALLS OF PUBLIC SOCIOLOGY**

**Anson Au, University of Toronto**

Re-examining Adorno on the Regression of Consciousness and Democracy: Towards Social Transformation ..... 53

**Andrea P. Herrera, University of Oregon**

Strategies for Sexual Subversion: Informing the Future of Sexualities Research and Activism ..... 79

**Steven T. Anderson, University of North Dakota**

Trailer Park Residents: Are They Worthy of Society’s Respect? ..... 113

**BOOK REVIEW**

**Walter Goettlich, The University of Kansas**

*Toxic Inequality: How America's Wealth Gap  
Destroys Mobility, Deepens the Racial Divide,  
& Threatens our Future* (2017)

by Thomas Shapiro..... 143

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